Mural Dedication Speech at Central Park

By: Dale C. Maley
For: Dedication of 5 new historic murals at Central Park
Date: July 29, 2016

-Thank everybody for attending

-My name is Dale Maley

-This is the dedication of the new historic murals

-Through-out Fairbury's history, the community has been known for many community efforts

-In fact, the ground we are standing on today was once the unsightly Von Tobel's lumber yard.

-The citizens decided to convert it to a park

-Von Tobel sold out his lumber yard and buildings and lumber were moved away.....leaving a sunken area 2 to 3 feet like Sunken Park is today.

-The citizens tried hauling dirt from Munz's sand pit on the south end of Fairbury. Too hard to do.

-TP&W railroad was cutting new grade at Forrest. Said they would deliver dirt in flat cars if citizens would unload every morning and spread it.....they did!

-None of these projects are successful unless lots of people work together to make it happen

-This historic mural project is no different.

-Would like to thank the following people and organizations.....

-Prairie Lands Foundation
- **-David Hammer's daily encouragement to us**
- **-for generously covering the cost of this project**

-Mayor Lynn Dameron and the City Council

-Daron Ropp and his high school class who cleared the area for construction

-Martin Steidinger and the city of Fairbury work crew
- **-great job on installing the nice new curved viewing sidewalk**
- **-helping with integrating the text signs into the new sidewalk**
- **-had 8 people working in a tight work sight, and we all worked together great**
- **-delivered our decorative rock**
- **-seeded grass along the new sidewalk**

-John Tollensdorf

-searched the records from the Old Tollensdorf Paint store and found the color code for the 1996 old City Hall yellow

-Ace Hardware and Alexander's Lumber yard for supplies

-Dave from Bench-Warmer's for the ice cold lemonade that was greatly appreciated on a hot summer day!

-Kent Casson for his photos and Blade articles

-Carl Borngasser
-letting me make a copy of John Virgin's 1888 letterhead

-Diane Palowski and the Fairbury Echoes Museum
-checking historical accuracy
-letting me copy the pictures of the coal miners and John Virgin's horse palace

-Cindy Helmers for finding old maps of Fairbury used for the fairgrounds and race track

-Judy Wells for helping to paint the wood structure

-Rebekah Zehr Fehr for giving us cold bottled water and letting us use the restroom in old City Hall

-Kirk Leman for printing the murals

-Jim Hoselton for coming up with the great border scheme on the murals
-also for donating the banners

-Last, but not least.....Alderman Terry Zimmerman
-has tirelessly led the Fairbury Improvement Group since July of 2015. This is part of that effort.
-laying out the curved sidewalk
-erecting the wood frames
-especially lifting those heavy 6x6 x 10 ft pressure treated timbers
-painting the wood frames
-installing the murals
-spreading the decorative rock
-planting the new grass
-helping with others to set-up this dedication ceremony

-Brief review of the 5 murals

-TP&W

- **-why Fairbury was founded**

-Coal mining

- **-made Fairbury a boom town with 3 operating coal mines**

-Francis Townsend

- **-Fairbury's most nationally famous citizen**

-Fairbury Fair and Race Track

- **-been a part of Fairbury for most of the town's history**

-John Virgin

- **-Fairbury is known for agriculture**
- **-He was one of Fairbury's great agricultural figures**
- **-Nationally known because President of the American Percheron Association**

-favorite mural story

- **-man and lady reading text boxes**
- **-man, Gee, I never knew all this stuff about Fairbury**
- **-man, I didn't know they were erecting these murals**
- **-Lady, do you get the Blade newspaper?**
- **-man.....yes**
- **-Lady.....didn't you see the stories in the Blade**
- **-Man.....well No, I only read the obituaries :)**

-Closing Thoughts

- **-This project great example of what Fairbury citizens can do when they work together**

- **-should help to educate current residents and children about Fairbury's great history**

- **-Encourages visitors to come to Fairbury and dine and shop in our local businesses**

- **-would like to thank everyone who has give us compliments on the project**

- **-After Mayor Dameron's closing statement, enjoy the refreshments**

-Will let Mayor Dameron make closing statement